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DATE: September 20, 2004

**TO: UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
ART UNIT 1725**

Andrew T. Spence
Reg. No. 45,699

In re: Burford et al.

Appl. No. 10/706,480

Filed October 27, 2003

Title: SYSTEM AND ASSOCIATED FRICTION STIR WELDING (FSW) ASSEMBLY, CONTROLLER AND METHOD FOR PERFORMING A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Confirmation No. 8066

Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: Lynne Renee Edmondson

Please process the attached Preliminary Amendment (7 pages) and fax confirmation of receipt to Andrew T. Spence at 704-444-1111. Thank you.

NO. OF PAGES:
(Including cover page)

8

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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A FRICTION STIR WELDING OPERATION

Docket No.: 038190/268379
Customer No.: 00826

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
37 CFR § 1.115**

Sir:

Please enter this Preliminary Amendment before calculating the claim fee and amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.